

First Nations commitment

For more than 65,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have cared for Country across the Australian continent, maintaining rich and diverse cultures, customs and languages, with deep connections to land and sea. However, treaties do not yet exist with all state, territory or federal government jurisdictions.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart, released in 2017, makes a case for truth-telling and agreement-making between governments and First Nations. It speaks of makarrata, “the coming together after a struggle”, to bring self-determination and justice for First Nations people.

This principle needs to guide our work as editors whenever a project does or should involve First Nations people, content, languages or perspectives. In particular, we need to:

- recognise the diversity of First Nations communities and knowledge systems
- call on authors and publishers to meaningfully engage with appropriate people and organisations, and contribute to that process if required
- support the inclusion of First Nations voices, collaboration and leadership
- prevent the misuse or appropriation of First Nations cultures, languages and knowledges
- build our cultural competence if it is lacking, so we can better anticipate the impact of the words we use and edit
- develop skills in working with traumatic material, especially if we are called on to help people share their personal stories, to ensure our actions are culturally sensitive and safe.

IPEd commits to:

- supporting First Nations editors to join and continue in the profession
- encouraging and helping non-Indigenous editors to become more culturally competent
- challenging policies, processes and ways of thinking that are exclusionary or harmful.

[From IPEd standards for editing practice, 3rd edition](#)